

Presidents Report 2024

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for this year's Annual General Meeting, following my single year in the role. As we gather to reflect on the past 12 months we also look forward to a strong and vibrant Society in 2025.

While plans for our decennial 'Dance Through the Decades' didn't unfold as hoped, our focus soon turned to the highlight of our calendar—the Toodyay Agricultural Show. Our heartfelt appeal to the community – to participate through volunteering, exhibiting or simply attending – was met with enthusiasm, reaffirming that the local Show is more than just an event—it's a cherished part of our shared history

Whilst our story began in 1853 (when a small group of local visionaries met at John Herbert's Royal Oak Hotel to establish what has become one of the longest-running agricultural societies in WA) this year's Show was significant as we celebrated the 170th anniversary of the first Show.

As we honoured our past, we also looked to the future, welcoming Rio Tinto as a new Tier 1 sponsor joining the Shire of Toodyay, Bendigo Bank and Chalice. The continued support of these major organisations, along with the valued contributions of local businesses and individuals, ensures the ongoing success of our Show.

Show Day itself was spectacular! With perfect weather, a record-breaking attendance of over 5,000 visitors, outstanding trade and agricultural exhibits, captivating entertainment and a true festival atmosphere, it was a day to remember. From dawn until the closing fireworks, the Showgrounds were alive with excitement, showcasing the best of our town and community. And it would be remiss of me not to mention the renovation of the Terrace Bar, which has further enhanced the Showgrounds and improved the experience for attendees.

At the heart of the Show's success are the dedicated individuals who make it all happen. I personally extend my deepest gratitude to the Committee members, who put in countless hours to bring the Show to life. A special thank you also goes to our community groups who assist with fundraising efforts, as well as our voluntary Section Stewards, Judges and the Curtin University students. The contributions of volunteers are the backbone of our Show, and their efforts should never be overlooked or underestimated.

This year, we bid farewell to two longstanding Committee members, Alison Wroth and Wayne Fletcher. Their years of dedication and hard work have left a lasting impact on the Society, and we acknowledge their service with great appreciation.

The strength of our Society lies in its people, and I encourage everyone to stay or get involved, to bring fresh ideas and help maintain this wonderful tradition.

It has been an honour to serve as President, and I look forward to seeing the Society continue to thrive in the years to come.

Karen Dore

President 2024

Toodyay Agricultural Society (Inc)